

JUL 03 2006

REMARKS

DRAWINGS:

The Examiner has objected to certain informalities in the Figures. Accordingly, replacements sheets 1 and 2 have been submitted with this amendment in order to correct these informalities in the figures.

CLAIMS:

The Examiner has objected to claim 8 as being a substantially duplicate of claim 3. Accordingly, claim 8 has been cancelled in order to eliminate this duplication. In addition, the Examiner has objected to claim 5, because the phrase "a controlled ground potential" should be "the controlled ground potential". Claim 5 has, therefore, been amended accordingly.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-8 and 12-16 as being anticipated by Albrecht et al. (US PAT. 6,052,258). Albrecht teaches a process for electrically connecting a pair of conductive layers wherein a hole is formed in one of the conductive layers and an electrically conductive material is placed within the hole to electrically connect the electrically conductive layers.

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to recite that one of the conductive layers as well as the dielectric layer disposed between the conductive layers are each recessed to form stepped back edges. An electrically conductive material is then applied so that it overhangs an uppermost of the conductive layers, thereby electrically connecting the conductive layers. Support for this amendment to claim 1 can be found on page 12, lines 4-11 of the specification.

As can be appreciated, forming one of the conductive layers and the dielectric layer with a stepped back edge as recited in amended claim 1 eliminates the extra step of forming a via or hole in one of the conductive layers and the dielectric layer, thereby simplifying manufacture. Albrecht teaches forming a hole in one of the conductive layers and the dielectric layer there between. This can be seen, for example, in the

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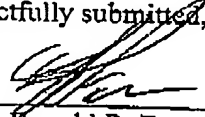
description of Fig. 17 in column 8, line 51 through 63, of Albrecht. Albrecht is silent as to the use of stepped back edges to form to expose portions of the conductive layers for electrical contact. Albrecht does not anticipate this cost and time saving method for electrically connecting components.

Because Albrecht does not teach or suggest the method described in amended claim 1, claim 1 as amended is allowable over the prior art. Claims 3-5, 9-11 and 14-16, which depend from allowable claim 1 and add further limitation thereto are necessarily also allowable over the prior art. Claims 2, 6-8, 12 and 13 have been cancelled.

The Applicant sincerely believes that the remaining claims in this application are allowable as amended. A notice of allowance is, therefore, requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at (408) 971-2573.

For payment of any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-2587 (Order No. SJ09000001US2)

Respectfully submitted,

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